Claims:

1. A method for treating snoring, sleep apnea and other forms of sleep disordered breathing, comprising administering to a patient an agent for treating symptoms of hyper-acidity or gastro-intestinal reflux disease (GERD).

2. A method for treating respiratory impairment while awake, comprising the administering to a patient an agent for treating symptoms of hyper-acidity or gastro-intestinal reflux disease (GERD).

3. A packaged pharmaceutical comprising:

   (i) a pharmaceutical preparation of an agent for treating symptoms of hyper-acidity or gastro-intestinal reflux disease and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, which preparation includes an amount of said agent(s) sufficient to reduce the symptoms or frequency of occurrence of sleep disordered breathing in a patient; and

   (ii) instructions for use of the preparation by a human patient for reducing the symptoms or frequency of occurrence of sleep disordered breathing.

4. Use of an agent for treating symptoms of hyper-acidity or gastro-intestinal reflux disease in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the symptoms or frequency of occurrence of sleep disordered breathing in a human patient.

5. The method of claim 1 or 2, the packaged pharmaceutical of claim 3, or the use of claim 4, wherein said inhibitor is an H2 histamine receptor antagonist, an inhibitor of H^+, K^+ ATPase, a proton pump inhibitor, a Bismuth compound, an antacid, a synthetic analog of somatostatin, an antiemetic agent, a sucralfate, prostaglandin analog, a muscarinic cholinergic antagonist, a D2 antagonist, a chenodeoxycholic acid, an ursodeoxycholic acid, or a pancreatic enzyme preparation.

6. The method of claim 1 or 2, the packaged pharmaceutical of claim 3, or the use of claim 4, wherein said agent is an inhibitor of gastric secretion.

7. The method, packaged pharmaceutical, or use of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is an H2 histamine receptor antagonist selected from TAGAMET™ (cimetidine), ZANTAC™ (ranitidine), PEPCID™ (famotidine), or AXID™ (nizatidine).

8. The method, packaged pharmaceutical, or use of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is an H^+, K^+ ATPase selected from PREVACID™ (lansoprazole), NEXIUM™ (esomeprazole magnesium), or PRILOSEC™ (omeprazole).

9. The method, packaged pharmaceutical, or use of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is PREVACID™ (lansoprazole).

10. The method, packaged pharmaceutical, or use of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is PROTONIX® (pantoprazole sodium) or ACIPHEX® (rabeprazole sodium or pariprazole).

11. The method, packaged pharmaceutical, or use of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is a compound or a pharmaceutical composition represented by any of formulas I-XVIII or salts thereof.

12. The packaged pharmaceutical of claim 3, wherein said preparation further includes an anti-histamine.

13. The packaged pharmaceutical of claim 3, wherein said preparation further includes a decongestant.

14. The packaged pharmaceutical of claim 3, wherein said preparation further includes an anti-inflammatory agent.

15. The packaged pharmaceutical of claim 3, or the use of claim 4, for reducing the occurrence or severity of snoring.

16. The packaged pharmaceutical of claim 3, or the use of claim 4, for reducing the occurrence or severity of sleep apnea.

17. A method for conducting a medical assistance reimbursement program, comprising:

(i) providing a reimbursement program which permits, for prescription of an inhibitor of gastric secretion to reduce the symptoms or frequency of occurrence of sleep disordered breathing in a patient, at least partial reimbursement for said prescription to a healthcare

provider or patient, or payment to a drug distributor for said prescription;

(ii) processing one or more claims for prescription of said inhibitor for reducing the symptoms or frequency of occurrence of sleep disordered breathing; and

(iii) reimbursing the healthcare provider or patient, or paying a drug distributor, at least a portion of the cost of said prescription.